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District Man Sentenced to Six-Year Prison Term for Robbing Victims of iPhones - Allegedly Targeted Victims on Metro -

WASHINGTON – Terrence McNatt, 24, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to six years imprisonment for a pair of robberies that took place over a two-day period last year, as well as related drug charges, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today.

McNatt was convicted by a jury in December 2010 of two counts of robbery. He earlier had pled guilty to drug offenses stemming from his possession of cocaine and marijuana at the time of his arrest. He was sentenced February 8, 2011 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Judge James E. Boasberg.

According to the government's evidence, in questioning by police following his arrest, in March 2010, McNatt admitted that he was part of a group that robs Metro passengers of iPhones.

The first robbery charge stemmed from the robbery of a woman on January 21, 2010 on a Metro train. According to the government's evidence, at about 7:50 p.m., the victim was traveling on a train between the Fort Totten and Takoma stations, on Metro's Red Line. McNatt boarded the train along with two accomplices. An eyewitness saw McNatt and his accomplices walking up and down the aisle of the train car, looking at the electronic devices that passengers were holding.

McNatt sat next to the eyewitness and looked at the iPod that the eyewitness was holding. The eyewitness made eye contact with McNatt, signaling awareness of McNatt's suspicious behavior. McNatt then got up, and he and his accomplices walked toward the victim, who was using her iPhone. The eyewitness heard the victim scream and observed McNatt and the other assailants flee from the train as it pulled into the Takoma station. The eyewitness later identified

McNatt's picture from a photo array shown to him by Metro Transit Police Detective Donald Rebar.

The second incident took place on January 22, 2010, at approximately 5:55 p.m., at a coffee shop in the lobby of a hotel near Metro Center. The victim placed her iPhone on a table where she was reading a newspaper. McNatt and another accomplice entered the lobby from a door that leads to a courtyard close to the escalator of the Metro Center Metro station. McNatt snatched the victim's iPhone and fled to the Metro escalator. The robbery was captured by hotel surveillance video.

Later that evening, McNatt was stopped at Metro's Pentagon City station in Arlington County, Virginia, for failing to pay to exit the train. He was arrested for fare evasion and found to be in possession of the victim's iPhone.

During questioning, McNatt denied robbing the victim of the phone, but admitted that he was a member of the "Swisha Splash Boys," a group that robs Metro passengers of their iPhones. Metro Transit Police detectives then linked McNatt to the robbery the previous evening on the Red Line.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended those who worked on the case from the Metro Transit Police Department, including Detectives Donald Rebar, Chris Archer and Ken Honick, Sgt. Stephen Boem, and Officers Josh Weir and Michael Nicoletti. He also acknowledged the work of Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Officer Randy Done. Finally, he thanked U.S. Attorney's Office Litigation Services Specialists Thomas "Ron" Royal, Paul Howell and Leif Hickling, Victim Witness Advocate Jennifer Clark, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward A. O'Connell, who investigated, indicted and tried the case.

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